



# Wangala Dance

## Why in News?

The opening ceremony of the **Rising Sun Water Fest-2022 was conducted** amidst the pristine surroundings of Umiam Lake (man-made reservoir) at Meghalaya.

- Members of the **Garo tribal community perform Wangala dance** on the occasion of 'The Rising Sun Water Fest-2022'.

## What is Wangala Dance?

- The Wangala is also known as the **Festival of Hundred Drums** and is celebrated with different forms of dances on the tunes of folk songs played on drums and primitive flute made of buffalo horns.
- The festival is celebrated in **honour of the Sun God and marks the end of the long harvest season**.
- The celebration also **signifies the end of a long toil period in the field** for the Garo tribe before the start of the winters.
- For the Garo Tribe in Meghalaya, the **festival is a way to preserve and promote their cultural identity** and they exhibit their tradition in their celebrations.

## Who are the Garo Community?

- The Garos, who call themselves **A'chiks, are the second largest tribe in Meghalaya**.
  - The other **two major tribes of Meghalaya** are the Khasi People and the Jaintia tribe.
- The Garos have a **strong tradition that they have come from Tibet**. They have a number of dialects and cultural groups. Each of them originally settled at a particular area of the Garo Hills and outlying plain lands.
- However, the **culture of the modern Garo community** has been greatly influenced by Christianity. Nokpantes are the glory of the past and all children are given equal care, rights and importance by modern parents.
- The **Garo marriage is regulated by two important laws**, viz., Exogamy and A'Kim according to the belonging to the same clan. Marriages are not allowed within the same clan.
  - According to the law of A-Kim, a man or a woman who has once contracted marriage will **never be free to remarry person of another clan**, even after the death of his/ her spouse.
- The Garos are **one of the few remaining matrilineal societies** in the world.
  - The individuals **take their clan titles from their mothers**. Traditionally, the youngest daughter inherits the property from her mother.
  - Sons leave the parents' house at puberty, and are trained in the village bachelor dormitory (Nokpante). After getting married, the man lives in his wife's house. Garos are **only a matrilineal society, but not matriarchal**.

Source: [TH](#)

